

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: FLFO

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

The employees of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument are dedicated to the protection and preservation of the resources in their care, the expansion of knowledge about those resources, and improving the communication of that knowledge to the public. We will practice environmental stewardship and reduce environmental impacts from Monument operations through critical analysis of development, purchasing, and operations decisions to achieve the greatest environmental and life-cycle cost benefits. We will build our constituency, help strengthen and develop a sense of personal ownership, and instill an appreciation for those practices and ethics among the public by communicating the decision rationale to them through educational outreach, public involvement, and cooperative endeavors with other entities. Through training and staff development we will improve our management expertise and operating practices to be more efficient and cost-effective, maintain our safe work environment, promote diversity in our workforce, and innovatively apply new technologies to improve delivery of services to the public. It is our intent to maintain and strengthen the relevance of the national park system for the public at large and to improve their access to that system and our Monument.

The major effort will be to improve facilities to serve the public, protect our resources and enhance the visitor experience - beginning with a new visitor education and museum/research facility that will enable better visitor service and the proper and secure analysis, cataloging, and storage of the fossil resources and collections entrusted to our care. Utility and infrastructure improvements will follow soon after. Indirect benefits from the improvements will be secure water rights, improved safety and health, enhanced preservation of natural, cultural, scientific, and scenic values, and expansion of the body of scientific knowledge through research.

Educational outreach will be employed to bridge the gap between schools' desire to provide an outdoor learning experience to their students and their ability to fund that experience. Rangers will go to schools and adult groups when they cannot come to the Monument, and will energetically facilitate the provision a healthy, educational, outdoor opportunity where possible. Staff will search for sponsors to fund this outdoor experience. Facilities at the Monument will be available for expanded adult educational programs through partnering with local entities, as well as providing an enhanced outdoor opportunity to promote fitness and wellness for children and adults.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Keith D. Payne, Superintendent

Site: FLFO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

* Improve quality and quantity of interpretive opportunities in the Monument by creating new interpretive media within a new facility, promoting the junior ranger program, increasing curriculum based activities both on and offsite, and to increase opportunities for visitors to make intellectual and emotional connections with the resource.

* Increase visitor safety through orientation safety messages in both personal and non-personal services. Providing first aid training and equipment for staff which includes the acquisition of narrow-band radios, defibrillator, lightning detector, and first aid kits. Establishment of a safety committee and regular meetings. Maintenance and repair of facilities.

* Provide and upgrade existing facilities, visitor center, and interpretive media to meet ADA standards.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ **Improve the condition of park resources and assets.**

☒ **Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.**

Stabilize the historic Hornbek Homestead complex of buildings

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.**

Continue to seek funding and personnel to conduct invasive weed management program

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.**

Construct new visitor center and curatorial facility; demolish temporary visitor center and A-frame education center.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Improve the natural resources in parks, as measured by the vital signs developed under the Natural Resource Challenge.**

Continue to work with ROMN to complete watershed inventory and monitoring and other resource projects.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Complete all cultural resource inventories for designated priority resources.**

Work with IMR Cultural resources to determine eligibility of Maytag barn for national historic register. Secure partnership funding to identify, inventory, and map culturally modified trees.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Continue monitoring paleo sites and documenting conditions and provide innovative research of unstudied paleo resources. Conduct comparative fossil studies using Florissant's fossils and contemporary similar vegetation. Work with other organizations to support ongoing research and preservation activities at partner site in Peru.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Encourage children to be future conservationists.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The Monument will promote the junior ranger program, seek funding to continue Teacher Ranger Teacher program, increase onsite and offsite curriculum based programs, and develop an Education plan. If possible, the Monument will seek funding to support field trip costs.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Employ green building technologies to the new visitor facility. Enhance park fleet efficiency by adding multifuel and hybrid vehicles.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

☒ Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

Showcase green building technologies and hybrid vehicles.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

New visitor center will be constructed to Silver LEED standard or better.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Strengthen community links to the Monument through outreach and public involvement and decision making. Demonstrate environmental ethics through communicating the rationale for park operations and decisions.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

RECREATION

☒ Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Establishing partnerships with schools, clubs, and funding organizations to encourage and support onsite programs and field trips. Seek funding to provide more outreach.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase visitation by 25 percent at lesser-known parks through a national tourism effort aimed at helping people to discover the breadth of parks and experiences.

Actively partner with other organizations to promote local tourism. Increase marketing/media efforts.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Develop education plan in partnership with educators. Promote field trips and seek funding to support them. Continue to develop and upgrade web-based curriculum.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

EDUCATION

☒ Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

☒ Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

Improve interactivity of website and develop engaging, high tech exhibits in the new visitor center.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

EDUCATION

☒ **Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.**

☒ **Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.**

Continue to use visitor surveys to monitor program success and seek funding and support for evaluation of interpretive program. Provide more training in the Interpretive Development Program for park staff to insure increased understanding and appreciation by visitors.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ **Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.**

☒ **Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.**

Support and fund training for park management. Apply new technologies as feasible and possible in support of park mission.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: FLFO

PROFESSIONALISM

☒ **Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.**

☒ **Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.**

Continue practices in support of Monument's excellent safety record (No loss time accidents since 1989).

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ **Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)**

Establish employee safety committee, designate collateral safety coordinator, and hold regular meetings. All interpretive media and personal services will include safety orientation. Identify and procure safety equipment for staff and visitors.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS